

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

May 23rd, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Bulging Building

Have you ever been asked to leave a building for safety reasons? This first story is about a building that seems to be falling apart for an unknown reason in Calgary.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary: Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

figure out (understand)	storey (floors in a building)	bulging (sticking out)
inspect (make sure it's safe)	remain (stay)	brick (solid, rectangular, hard, clay)
forced out (made to leave)	engineer (person who designs buildings and bridges)	

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

six-storey building – a building that is six floors high

no word – no news; no information

1. She lived in a ten-_____ building.
2. They will have to _____ the building to make sure it's not going to fall down.
3. The building is about to fall down, the walls are _____ out and bricks are falling from it.
4. I have to _____ how to fix my computer, because it's broken.
5. Please _____ outside of the building until the cause of the damage has been determined.
6. The _____ designed the apartment building.
7. They were not welcome there anymore, so they got _____.
8. The house is made of _____ and mud.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The fire department understands why the bricks fell from the building.
2. ____ 115 people were forced out of the building.
3. ____ The building is six storeys high.
4. ____ The building is on 6th ave and 7th street.
5. ____ The engineers have figured out the issue with the building.
6. ____ After the building was inspected the people were forced out.
7. ____ The eastern wall is bulging for some reason.
8. ____ The road in front of the building is closed now.

Activity: Create a **plan** to make sure people get out of a building (maybe your school or apartment) safely. If you were in charge of forcing people out of the building, how would you do it? How would you make sure people knew to get out of the building? How would you make sure that everyone made it out of the building?

News story #2 School Closure

What are some good reasons to close down a school? This second story is about a school that is going to be closed down due to problems with managing the money and the students' grades.

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	private	a) question research
	take over	b) not public individual
	finances	c) to control to run
	recommend	d) money funds
	investigate	e) growth get larger
	independent	f) to suggest to say
	inquiry	g) to look into to find out
	inflation	h) alone without help

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Education minister – the person in charge of education (the school boards)

Canada Revenue Agency – the branch of the government that is in charge of taxes

Listening activity: past, present, or future

Listen and check off whether these events are from the past, present or future. *Answers are in the appendix.*

	Past	Present	Future
1. Private school close			
2. Alberta Education take over finances			
3. Department recommends an investigation			
4. Independent inquiry finds financial problems			
5. Johnson says the closure of the school is unusual			
6. Alberta Education supervises the final exams			

Discussion Question: Who is all is going to be affected by the school closure? What other solutions could have been possible, instead of closing the school?

News story #3 High Speed Train

Are trains a common way to travel in your home country? Do you like to travel by train? This next story is about an idea being put forward by a man to build a very fast train line between Calgary and Banff.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	1. proposal	a) to get money or support from other people
	2. high-speed	b) worry
	3. crowdsourcing	c) idea put forward
	4. concern	d) in control of
	5. in charge	e) ten years
	6. decade	f) one who travels from one place to another regularly
	7. commuter	g) very fast

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

raising eyebrows – making people feel concerned or worried

catching people by surprise – for people to be surprised by something unexpected

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Listen and answer the following questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is the proposal about?
2. Where will the train travel from and to?
3. How will money be raised for this project?
4. What two things will crowdsourcing do for Greg Dansereau?
5. What is the government's concern?
6. When does Ettore Lannacito say commuter trains will come to Calgary?

Discussion

What are the benefits of taking a train instead of driving, taking a bus, or flying? Why would people oppose (not support or agree with) this idea of putting in a speed train line?

Language Focus: Discussing the Future

When discussing the future, the most common terms we use is “will” and “going to”. This week’s news stories refer to the future many times, but there are some new terms that are used to indicate the future. Look at these passages from story 3 and see if you can identify 3 new ways to talk about the future.

Answers are in Appendix

Circle any possible phrases or words that refer to the future:

A proposal to build a high-speed train from Calgary to Banff is raising a few eyebrows. Greg Dansereau is the head of H-S Banff, which wants to build the high-speed line. He plans to raise some of the money by crowdsourcing. He says that will help pay for the project and also see if people are interested in the idea. Dansereau said, “One of the things governments are concerned with is, if we build this train, will people get on it and ride.” The idea is catching many by surprise. Ettore Lannacito is in charge of transportation for the Calgary Regional Partnership. He says commuter trains between communities like Calgary, Banff and Cochrane are decades away.

You should have found these three references to the future: *wants to; plans to; decades away*

These three phrases express future, but in less certain terms than “will” does. Will means something is going to certainly happen. Wants to, plans to and decades away is more remote and not as certain.

Next, try to re-write these statements using the less certain future terms that are listed above.

Answers are in the Appendix

Statements	Rewrite using: a) wants to b) plans to and c) decades away
The fire department is still trying to figure out why bricks fell from a downtown building in Calgary.	a) b) c)
Engineers have been inspecting the building all afternoon and there's still no word on the cause.	a) b) c)
The department is recommending the police and Canada Revenue Agency investigate the school.	a) b) c)

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY 23 RD WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 23rd.	0:00
Story 1	The fire department is still trying to figure out why bricks fell from a downtown building in Calgary. 150 people were forced out of the six-storey building at 6th Avenue and 7th Street South West. Engineers have been inspecting the building all afternoon and there's still no word on the cause. No one was hurt but the eastern wall of the building is bulging. Carole Henke with the Calgary Fire Department said that 6th Avenue between 6th and 7th Street will remain closed.	0:09
Story 2	A private school in Calgary will close at the end of this school year. Alberta Education will take over the finances of the International School of Excellence. The department is recommending the police and Canada Revenue Agency investigate the school. Education Minister Jeff Johnson says an independent inquiry found financial and governance problems. Johnson says the move to close the school is unusual. He also says there were concerns about the teaching and possible grade inflation. Alberta Education says it will supervise the final exams.	0:57
Story 3	A proposal to build a high-speed train from Calgary to Banff is raising a few eyebrows. Greg Dansereau is the head of H-S Banff, which wants to build a high-speed line. He plans to raise some of the money by crowdsourcing. He says that will help pay for the project and also see if people are interested in the idea. Dansereau said, "One of the things governments are concerned with is, if we build this train, will people get on it and ride?" The idea is catching many by surprise. Ettore Lannacito is in charge of transportation for the Calgary Regional Partnership. He says commuter trains between communities like Calgary, Banff and Cochrane are decades away.	1:46

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

1. She lived in a ten-**storey** building.
2. They will have to **inspect** the building to make sure it's not going to fall down.
3. The building is about to fall down, the walls are **bulging** out and bricks are falling from it.
4. I have to **figure out** how to fix my computer, because it's broken.
5. Please **remain** outside of the building until the cause of the damage has been determined.
6. The **engineer** designed the apartment building.
7. They were not welcome there anymore, so they got **forced out**.
8. The house is made of **brick** and mud.

Listening:

1. F The fire department understands why the bricks fell from the building.
2. F 115 people were forced out of the building.
3. T The building is six storeys high.
4. T The building is on 6th ave and 7th street.
5. F The engineers have figured out the issue with the building.
6. F After the building was inspected the people were forced out.
7. T The eastern wall is bulging for some reason.
8. T The road in front of the building is closed now.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
b	Private	a) question research
c	take over	b) not public individual
d	Finances	c) to control to run
f	Recommending	d) money funds
g	Investigate	e) growth get larger
h	Independent	f) to suggest to say
a	Inquiry	g) to look into

		to find out
e	Inflation	h) alone without help

Listening:

Listening activity: past, present, or future

Listen and check off whether these events are from the past, present or future. *Answers are in the appendix.*

	Past	Present	Future
1. Private school closes			x
2. Alberta Education takes over finances			x
3. Department recommends an investigation		x	
4. Independent inquiry finds financial problems	x		
5. Johnson says the closure of the school is unusual		x	
6. Alberta Education supervises the final exams			x

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
c	1. proposal	a) to get money or support from other people
g	2. high-speed	b) worry
a	3. crowdsourcing	c) idea put forward
b	4. concern	d) in control of
d	5. in charge	e) ten years
e	6. decade	f) one who travels from one place to another regularly
f	7. commuter	g) very fast

Listening:

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Listen and answer the following questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is the proposal about? **Building a high-speed train**
2. Where will the train travel from and to? **Calgary to Banff**
3. How will money be raised for this project? **By crowdsourcing**
4. What two things will crowdsourcing do for Greg Dansereau? **It will help pay for the train and see how many people are interested in it.**
5. What is the government's concern? **There are worried that people won't get on and ride the train.**

6. When does Ettore Lannacito say commuter trains will come to Calgary? **It is decades away**

Language focus: Discussing the Future

Circle any possible phrases or words that refer to the future:

A proposal to build a high-speed train from Calgary to Banff is raising a few eyebrows. Greg Dansereau is the head of H-S Banff, which **wants to** build the high-speed line. He **plans to** raise some of the money by crowdsourcing. He says that **will** help pay for the project and also see if people are interested in the idea. Dansereau said, "One of the things governments are concerned with is, if we build this train, **will** people get on it and ride." The idea is catching many by surprise. Ettore Lannacito is in charge of transportation for the Calgary Regional Partnership. He says commuter trains between communities like Calgary, Banff and Cochrane **are decades away**.

Statements	Rewrite using: a) wants to b) plans to and c) decades away
The fire department is still trying to figure out why bricks fell from a downtown building in Calgary.	a) The fire department wants to figure out why ...Calgary. b) The fire department plans to figure out why ... Calgary c) The fire department is decades away from figuring out why bricks... Calgary.
Engineers have been inspecting the building all afternoon and there's still no word on the cause.	a) Engineers want to inspect the building ... b) Engineers plan to inspect the building... c) Engineers are decades away from inspecting the building...
The department is recommending the police and Canada Revenue Agency investigate the school.	a) The department wants to recommend the police and b) The department plans to recommend the police and... c) The department is decades away from recommending the police and Canada Revenue Agency investigate the school.